

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1095

Introduced by Assembly Member Corbett

February 20, 2003

~~An act to amend Section 6341 of the Business and Professions Code, An act to add Section 70394 to the Government Code, relating to libraries.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1095, as amended, Corbett. County law libraries.

Existing law specifies the various duties of the Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts, and provides for the establishment of county law libraries.

This bill would require the Judicial Council to establish a task force on county law libraries, consisting of 3 representatives from the judicial branch of government selected by the Administrative Director of the Courts, 3 representatives of the counties selected by the California State Association of Counties, and 3 county law library administrators selected by the Council of California County Law Librarians. The bill would require the task force to identify the needs related to county law library operations and facilities, make recommendations for funding county law library operations, facility improvements, and expansion, and submit its report and recommendations to the Judicial Council and the Legislature on or before January 1, 2005.

~~Existing law authorizes any board of law library trustees to establish and maintain a branch of the law library in any city in the county, other than the county seat, in which a superior court session is held. Existing~~

~~law also specifies that in a city constituting the county seat, a county board of law library trustees may maintain a branch of the law library at any location where four or more judges are designated to hold sessions more than 10 miles distant from the principal office of the court.~~

~~This bill would instead change the above distance to 20 miles.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 ~~SECTION 1. — Section 6341 of the Business and Professions~~
2 ~~SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:~~
3 ~~(a) County law libraries are a vital adjunct to the state judicial~~
4 ~~system providing many individuals with an opportunity to readily~~
5 ~~access essential legal documents and publications.~~
6 ~~(b) The fiscal health of county law libraries, and the ability of~~
7 ~~county law libraries to provide adequate, up-to-date publications~~
8 ~~and services have a considerable impact on the quality of justice~~
9 ~~dispensed to citizens of California.~~
10 ~~(c) For many individuals, the county law libraries represent the~~
11 ~~most accessible and affordable option for access to legal~~
12 ~~documents and publications.~~
13 ~~(d) Many county law libraries are not able to acquire and~~
14 ~~maintain current publications and electronic access to pertinent~~
15 ~~materials, nor are they able to hire necessary staff. The current~~
16 ~~funding structure does not allow for adequate financial planning~~
17 ~~and falls substantially short of meeting necessary expenditures.~~
18 ~~(e) Current revenues appear to be insufficient to provide the~~
19 ~~funding necessary to adequately finance the acquisition of~~
20 ~~equipment, publications, and staff for county law libraries.~~
21 ~~(f) The counties of California are neither required nor able to~~
22 ~~provide county law libraries with additional support to offset or~~
23 ~~moderate the financial difficulties encountered by county law~~
24 ~~libraries throughout the state.~~
25 ~~SEC. 2. Section 70394 is added to the Government Code, to~~
26 ~~read:~~
27 ~~70394. (a) The Judicial Council shall establish a task force~~
28 ~~on county law libraries. The task force is charged with identifying~~
29 ~~the needs related to county law library operations and facilities,~~

1 and identifying and making recommendations for funding county
2 law library operations, facility improvements, and expansion.

3 (b) The task force shall consist of three representatives from the
4 judicial branch of government, as selected by the Administrative
5 Director of the Courts, three representatives of the counties, as
6 selected by the California State Association of Counties, and three
7 county law library administrators, as selected by the Council of
8 California County Law Librarians. The Administrative Director of
9 the Courts shall designate one of these representatives as
10 chairperson of the task force.

11 (c) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff
12 support for the task force and shall develop guidelines for
13 procedures and practices for the task force.

14 (d) The duties of the task force shall include all of the following:

15 (1) Review the state of existing county law libraries.

16 (2) Examine existing standards for county law library
17 operations.

18 (3) Document the funding mechanisms currently available for
19 the maintenance and operation of county law library facilities.

20 (4) Recommend funding sources and financing mechanisms for
21 support of county law library operations and facility maintenance.

22 (e) The task force shall be appointed on or before March 1,
23 2004. The task force shall submit its report and recommendations
24 to the Judicial Council and the Legislature on or before January
25 1, 2005.

26 Code is amended to read:

27 ~~6341. Any board of law library trustees may establish and~~
28 ~~maintain a branch of the law library in any city in the county, other~~
29 ~~than the county seat, in which a session of the superior court is~~
30 ~~held. In any city constituting the county seat, any board of law~~
31 ~~library trustees may establish and maintain a branch of the law~~
32 ~~library at any location therein where four or more judges of the~~
33 ~~superior court are designated to hold sessions more than 20 miles~~
34 ~~distant from the principal office of the court. In any city and county~~
35 ~~any board of law library trustees may establish and maintain~~
36 ~~branches of the law library. A branch is in all respects a part of the~~
37 ~~law library and is governed accordingly.~~